



FREEDOM WATCH



November 27, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

U.S. troops under fire

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — At a Combined Joint Task Force - 180 press brief Tuesday, it was announced that a total of four rockets were launched at the International Security Assistance Force and the Kabul Military Training Center Monday night. Also that day, a rocket propelled grenade was fired at the Spin Boldak fire base in the Kandahar Province. Monday morning, Shkin fire base reported a rocket attack near their compound. In all incidents, there were no injuries or damage to equipment.

Weapons cache seized

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The U.S. Special Forces discovered a large cache in the vicinity of Bamian Monday. According to Col. Roger King, Combined Joint Task Force - 180 Public Affairs officer, the cache contained heavy weapons and armored vehicles. The SF patrol reported that approxi-

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Atlantic alliance welcomes 7-nation mix

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — “Our people have been tested in the fires of history; they have been tempered in the furnace of suffering and injustice,” said Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga. “They know the meaning and the value of liberty. They know that it is worth every effort to support it, to maintain it, to stand for it and to fight for it.”

The speech of the Latvian president captured the mood and attention of the NATO Summit held in Prague Nov. 20-21. Her country and six others — Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — had just been invited to join the North Atlantic Alliance.

Up until 1991, all of the countries were communist. Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania were members of NATO’s enemy the Warsaw Pact. Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were integral republics of the Soviet Union. Slovenia was a part of then-Yugoslavia, which distanced itself from Soviet rule.

Now they have been invited to the



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed, U.S. Air Force
President George W. Bush greets Czech military forces before departing Prague International Airport Friday. The president was there for the 2002 NATO summit, which was the first-held since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America.

Western alliance. When they finally become members, they will have all the rights and responsibilities of NATO’s 12 founding members. An attack on any of these countries is an attack on all.

NATO and the United States are actively pushing development of the so-called “niche capabilities” that the invitees bring. New invitee Slovakia would follow suit.

“We are a mountainous country,” said Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava Friday. “We have some specialized troops trained to operate in high mountains. This is also the way we are training our specialists for reconnaissance.”

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Bagram airman discovers joys of running

By Spc. Alfredo
Jimenez Jr.
*28th Public Affairs
Detachment*

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The airman doesn’t want to win.

He couldn’t care less about the gold medals, tro-

phies and recognition that comes with first place finishes, and don’t even ask him



**Master Sgt.
Mark Adams**

about his best time or you could get the same meekly response.

For Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Adams, the beautiful art of running in a marathon is simply the effort, patience and respect for the grueling event.

“I like the challenge,”

said Adams, chief, Weather Station Operations, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, Fort Knox, Ky. “A marathon is the ultimate race. Anyone can run a 5K or 10K, but a marathon is the ultimate test.”

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NATO, from Page 1

The Slovak military also fields engineer units now working in Afghanistan and the Balkans.

In Slovenia Saturday, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld got a small view of the type of capabilities these new forces bring. The Slovene military staged a demonstration for the secretary and his traveling party.

The close cooperation among all elements of the force was apparent. The ability to work with allies was also obvious: The officer briefing the secretary about the demonstration

ended with "And, Mr. Secretary, it's only 14 days until Army beats the hell out of Navy in football." The Slovene officer was a 2001 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

The new countries will mean more to the alliance than military capabilities. Rumsfeld said these new countries bring a "spirit and enthusiasm" to NATO that the other countries need.

"I think it is an exceptional event not only for the Slovak nation ... but it is an exceptional event for the whole of Europe because this robust enlarge-

ment has definitely made the Iron Curtain something of the past and Europe has become united," Dzurinda said.

The spirit and enthusiasm was also apparent in Latvian President Vike-Freiberga's closing remarks in Prague: "We make a solemn pledge and a commitment here today on this historic and solemn occasion, that we will strive to our utmost to do our part to contribute not just to strength of the alliance but to do whatever needs to be done to create the world where justice and liberty are available to all."

RUN, from Page 1

Well, if Adams was looking for a challenge, then he deployed to the right area because he will join 180 other spirited runners Friday for the first Bagram Mine Field Marathon.

"It will be hard because of the altitude, the meager course, dust and the sheer excitement of running near scattered mine fields," Adams said.

But don't feel too sorry for him just yet, because this airman runs all over the world including South Korea, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

"This (event) will be the most unique I've been associated with," he said. "There were bad guys here a few months ago and now the U.S. and Coalition has liberated the air field and is getting Afghanistan back on its feet."

Adams, originally from Elizabethtown, Ky., will try to finish the race in less than four hours and would like to be the top airman, but is content just to have the opportunity to be a part of the historic marathon.

"I haven't had much time to train," he said. "But I've run twenty miles twice so I feel confident going into the race."

He says his wife of eight years, Pam, and his 7-year-old son, Jud, will be on his mind as he rumbles toward the end of the 26.2-mile event.

Hopefully, that will keep Adams from getting lost like he did at a race in Osan, South Korea, five years ago.

"I was at Camp Humphries for a 5K run, which I placed second in my age group (ages 30-34)," he said. "That afternoon, I caught a bus back to Osan to run a 10K. I was running well, was in third place overall, but I missed the turn for the finish line. I finished 15th."

What happened next solidified his passion for the sport.

"At the award ceremony, the third place winner gave me his trophy because he said I deserved to win," Adams said.

So don't worry if you see Adams running the wrong way this time because he will be trying to help others.

"My goal is to finish," he said. "After I finish I plan on going back and help other runners finish the race."

See, this airman doesn't want to be a winner.

But he sure acts like one.

The Legacy Project:

The Legacy Project is looking for e-mails written by military personnel in Afghanistan and sent to their loved ones back in the States.

The e-mails can be from any member of the U.S. armed forces who is serving or has served in Afghanistan. The e-mails can be on any subject, including expressions of love, patriotism, homesickness, determination and encouragement. In short, any e-mail that will help people on the homefront better understand the thoughts and experiences of those serving in and around Afghanistan.

Include contact information with the e-mail for the project coordinator. The Legacy Project will not use anything without permission from the person who wrote the e-mail and will, if the sender so requests, edit out any comments or information (including the servicemember's name) in the e-mails that the servicemember does not want shared.

All suggestions, questions and e-mails can be forwarded to **warletterproject@aol.com**.

Army master sergeant promotion board

The U.S. Army master sergeant promotion board will convene Feb. 4, 2003.

For promotion consideration to master sergeant, the following is required:

- ❖ All sergeant first class's with a date of rank of Feb. 3, 2001 or earlier, and with a basic active service date between Feb. 3, 1980 and Feb. 3, 1995.

- ❖ Primary zone DOR is July 31, 1999 or earlier. Secondary zone is Aug. 1, 1999 through Feb. 3, 2001.

- ❖ Soldiers holding a primary military occupational specialty that is affected by Stop Loss will be eligible for promotion provided their adjusted expiration in term of service date is Feb. 4, 2003 or later. All eligible may update their enlisted records briefs' and 2-1's at Company C (Forward), 18th Personnel Services Battalion, second floor of Motel 6 on Bagram Air Base or servicing personnel services detachment before Dec. 31.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jorge Saldana at 318-231-4738, or e-mail at **saldanaj@baf.cjtf180.army.mil**.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Dining Facility hours at Bagram Air Base for Thursday are

- ❖ Continental breakfast — 0130Z to 0330Z
- ❖ Main meal — 0730Z to 1130Z
- ❖ Dinner — 1230Z to 1630Z



HIND SIGHT

1812

One of the two bridges being used by Napoleon Bonaparte's army across the Beresina River in Russia collapses during a Russian artillery barrage.

1826

Jebediah Smith's expedition reaches San Diego, becoming the first Americans to cross the southwestern part of the continent.

1868

Lt. Col. George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry kills Chief Blackkettle and about 100 Cheyenne (mostly women and children) on the Washita River.

1970

Syria joins the pact linking Libya, Egypt and Sudan.

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mately 100 armed personnel abandoned the site upon seeing their unit. The unit detained two unarmed men for questioning but later released them.

Bush to announce plan for smallpox vaccinations

WASHINGTON — President Bush is expected to announce a plan in the next few weeks to protect 500,000 health workers by vaccinating them against smallpox. That program will be followed by a second wave of vaccinations for 7 million to 10 million more health workers, firefighters, police and first responders. The vaccine also would be made available to the public, through voluntary participation in clinical trials, but the government would not recommend that anyone besides health workers and first responders take the vaccine.

U.N. to 'freeze' Iraq sites

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. weapons inspectors preparing for their first day of work in Iraq after a four-year break say they will "freeze" the buildings they enter to prevent any evidence being smuggled out. Inspectors are preparing to use state-of-the-art equipment when they begin their search for alleged weapons of mass destruction today.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Men of Honor" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Uncommon Valor," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 63F L: 25F	Partly cloudy H: 63F L: 23F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 68F L: 37F	Mostly clear H: 70F L: 36F
Kabul:	Haze H: 59F L: 32F	Haze H: 57F L: 32F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 54F L: 36F	Rain H: 50F L: 33F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

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Visit the CENTCOM Web site to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTSZONE



2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami, Fla.	2.89
2. Ohio State	4.21
3. Oklahoma	9.09
4. Georgia	10.07
5. Iowa	12.43
6. USC	13.37
7. Notre Dame	13.83
8. Washington St.	20.25
9. Texas	22.78
10. Kansas St	23.82
11. Michigan	24.91
12. Colorado	28.18
13. Florida	28.79
14. Penn St.	29.69
15. Colorado St.	32.79

McPherson blasts FSU coaches

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Quarterback Adrian McPherson blasted Florida State coaches Tuesday, one day after he was kicked off the football team amid reports that police planned to question him in the theft and forgery of a blank check.

McPherson said the staff failed to gather all the facts before hastily dismissing him after a 17-7 loss Saturday at North Carolina State.

"I think they should have found out everything that went on before they kicked me off the team," McPherson said.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, unaware of McPherson's news conference, said following practice in Tallahassee he was willing to re-evaluate the 19-year-old sophomore's status after "the thing has settled down."

But McPherson said he never wants to play for the Seminoles again.

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Blazers brass embarrassed by team's latest round of legal woes

PORTLAND, Ore. — Maurice Cheeks admits the Portland Trail Blazers have a problem, and it's time to change after another team member had a brush with the law — the third in five days.

Forward Ruben Patterson was charged with assaulting his wife less than a week after guard Damon Stoudamire and forward Rasheed Wallace were cited for marijuana possession. Stoudamire and Wallace both admitted smoking marijuana to the arresting officer, according to a police report.

"I think it's an issue we have to deal with," Cheeks said. "We're grown men, and we can't keep passing the buck here, or passing the buck there. We have to be accountable for the things that we do and the things that we say."

Bob Whitsitt, the team's general

manager and president, said any penalties for Stoudamire and Wallace can only be determined by the NBA, while disciplinary action against Patterson could come from the league or the team after the case has been resolved in court.

He said Patterson would not be playing in Tuesday's game against Houston, in order to work on his "personal situation," and that Patterson's status for upcoming games was unclear.

Whitsitt also said the team will be more careful in making future player personnel decisions.

"Paul Allen and I would like to apologize to our fans," Whitsitt said, speaking on behalf of Allen, the technology billionaire who owns the Blazers.



2002 NBA standings

Western Conference

Midwest

(1) Dallas	13-0
(4) San Antonio	9-6
(5) Houston	7-5
(6) Minnesota	8-7
(7) Utah	7-7

Pacific

(2) Sacramento	12-4
(3) Seattle	9-6
(8) Phoenix	6-6
Portland	6-7
L.A. Clippers	5-9

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) Philadelphia	11-4
(5) New Jersey	10-4
(6) Boston	9-4
(7) Orlando	8-7
Washington	6-8

Central

(1) Indiana	11-2
(3) Detroit	11-3
(4) New Orleans	10-4
(8) Atlanta	7-7
Milwaukee	6-7



Brown selected to coach 2004 Olympic team

Larry Brown of the Philadelphia 76ers was chosen as head coach of the 2004 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team Tuesday.

Brown, who won a gold medal as a player at the 1964 Olympics and was an assistant coach on two prior Olympic teams, will guide the team at next summer's Olympic qualifying tournament and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

"I look at this as an unbelievable honor, one that I don't take lightly," the 62-year-old

Brown said in a statement released by USA Basketball. "I will do my very best to represent USA Basketball and the NBA. This is what makes coaching worthwhile."

Brown was chosen by a 10-man selection committee over Phil Jackson of the Lakers, Jerry Sloan of the Utah Jazz and Pat Riley of the Miami Heat.

Brown has the most USA Basketball experience of any in the group, which no doubt was a significant factor in his selection. Brown was an assis-

tant on Rudy Tomjanovich's staff at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney when the U.S. team survived a scare from Lithuania in the semifinals and went on to win the gold by defeating France.

"Larry Brown is clearly among basketball's most successful and respected coaches," USA Basketball president Tom Jernstedt said. "His contributions to the game and achievements at all levels make him the ideal coach to lead the United A core group of

eight or nine players is expected to be announced by February, with Kevin Garnett, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant expected to be shoo-ins if they accept invitations to play.

O'Neal and Bryant "are two of the best players in our league, without question, and with the way other teams around the world have improved, we need our best players — but also high-character guys. And I think they fit the bill," Brown said.

Free phone card



Wal-mart and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are issuing 500,000 free phone cards. The cards are for soldier serving overseas during the holiday season.

To apply, visit www.operationuplink.org/request.cfm.

Mine Field Marathon



The 26.2-mile Mine Field Marathon will be Friday. To register, visit the Bagram Air Base 339th Combat Support Hospital.

All runners participating are required to attend the safety brief Thursday, 0330Z, at the Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation Building. T-shirts will be handed out then.

"Target 13, have you ever thought about being a cook?"



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support